

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

August 16, 2004

A regular meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation. It was announced that this meeting has been advertised in the Somerset Messenger Gazette issue of December 6, 2003 in accordance with “The Open Public Meetings Act”.

Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Richard Batchelder arrived at 7:40PM
- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht
- Ms. Connie Hallman
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren
- Mr. Edward Zimmerman

Minutes

The Minutes of the July 19, 2004 meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote Mr. Engelbrecht, Ms. Harris, Mr. Morren, and Mr. Zimmerman voted aye. Ms. Hallman abstained.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Engineer's Report

A copy is on file with the Clerk.

Pavement Striping: Montgomery and Princeton Avenues are complete the other striping in the Borough is waiting for a schedule from the County. Crescent Ave. paving is complete as is the drainage along the soccer field at Borough Hall.

The paper work for State DOT Grant money is in Trenton and we should receive payment in 30-45 days. Mr. Tanner has ordered decals for our storm water inlets and the County has completed much of the report for storm water mgt. and Mr. Tanner will complete it and send it to the State.

Mr. Batchelder arrived.

Three bids were received on August 11, 2004 for the Traffic Calming work in the Borough and Jonico Inc. of Lambertville NNJ was the low bidder. VanCleaf Eng. recommended the contract be awarded to Jonico Inc. at a value of \$61,500.00.

Ms. Harris moved by RESOLUTION to award the Traffic Calming Contract to Jonico Inc. for \$61,500.00. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Two quotes were received on August 11, 2004 for leaf removal this fall in the Borough. The low quotation was received from G&T Landscaping and VanCleaf Eng. recommended the contract be awarded to G&T Landscaping. Ms. Harris moved by RESOLUTION, second by Mr. Morren to award the contract for leaf removal this fall in the Borough to G&T Landscaping at a cost not exceed \$16,500.00. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Bill List

Ms. Harris presented the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TREASURER HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY SAID VOUCHERS: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. Second by Mr. Morren. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #1 for Bill List.

Special Business

Specs were not available to review for a new ambulance.

Ms. Jenna Kleinman, owner of the Santa Fe Grille, explained to Borough Council she would like to hold a five year anniversary party in the parking lot of the Santa Fe Grille on Saturday October 16, 2004 from noon until 6:00PM. Borough Council feels it is a great idea and she should notify her neighbors and communicate with Mr. Morren concerning any issues of safety.

Mr. Morren moved first reading of ORDINANCE 13-04 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET APPROPRIATING \$280,000.00 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$265,000.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF. Second by Mr. Zimmerman. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #2 for the Ordinance. The Public Hearing and final adoption will be held on Wednesday September 1, 2004 at 7:00PM at Borough Hall.

Requests for quotes to supply heating oil to the Borough Hall were sent to three vendors and only one sent a quote.

Mr. Batchelder moved by RESOLUTION, second by Ms. Hallman to award the contract for heating oil to the Borough from September 1, 2004 until August 31, 2006 to Valley Oil Co. at a cost of NYTC consumer high plus .04 /gallon on day of delivery plus a maintenance policy for the heater at a cost of \$199.00 for twelve months. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Mr. Zimmerman the RESOLUTION to receive a \$5000.00 Grant from NJ State for Storm Water Mgt. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #3 for the Resolution.

New Business

A new three lease with the Rocky Hill COOP Nursery School which will increase in rental fees by 7.5% over the three years was approved with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Ms. Hallman. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

It was decided by Borough Council that the fall clean-up will be held on Saturday October 16, 2004.

Ms. Harris moved, second by Mr. Batchelder the emergency RESOLUTION concerning fire prevention expense. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #4 for the Resolution.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Mr. Zimmerman the RESOLUTION requesting approval of items of revenue. On a roll call voted all present voted aye. See appendix #5 for the Resolution.

The two Resolutions concerning smoke free legislation will be reviewed by the Board of Health and Mr. Engelbrecht will take them to the Board of Health.

Ms. Hallman moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of possible litigation concerning to fifteen acres owned by David Schafer, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 8:28PM.

Ms. Harris moved, second by Ms. Hallman to return to public session. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 9:15PM

Committee reports

Administration & Records: Ms. Hallman reported that the staff is working on record retention and disposal and will report at the next meeting. She also said there will be a code committee meeting at 6:00PM on September 1, 2004.

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Zimmerman said the violations room is complete and he will report later on the Borough Building Five Year Plan.

Finance & Insurance: Mr. Batchelder said all council members received a tax collector's report and a budget report will be available at the next meeting.

Public Safety/ Emergency Services: Mr. Morren stated one parking violation was issued during July and trees and bushes are still a safety issue in parts of the Borough.

Streets & Roads: Ms. Harris said most of her report was covered by the engineer; however she said traffic signs are still covered by trees etc. and vines along the East end of Crescent Avenue cause a hazard.

Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection: Mr. Engelbrecht reported that 2,852,000 gallons of water was pumped during July and all tests were O.K. A tree was trimmed at the well house and no sewer problems were reported. He reported that Mayor Nolan, Clerk Whitlock and he met with Mr. Neiman and Mr. Bahr from Montgomery Twp. concerning a new sewer agreement with the Township. Nothing was accomplished and the three told Mr. Neiman and Mr. Bahr to report to their committee that Montgomery's proposal was unacceptable to Rocky Hill.

Council representative to Planning Board: Mayor Nolan said Ms. D. Land received approval for an addition at 49 Crescent Avenue and he updated the board on the plans for Somerset County Park.

Construction Official: No report.

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Batchelder stated he had met with members of the Planning Board concerning escrow accounts and following is to be completed:

1. Mr. Muller and Ms. Bristol will work on collecting outstanding escrow balances.
2. Mr. Raffaelli to recommend increasing escrow fees on applications.
3. Mr. Batchelder to install a place on the website where the professionals can check billing on escrow accounts.
4. Professionals to bill for services quicker.

Mr. Zimmerman presented a five year improvement plan for Borough Buildings & Grounds. He stated there are three projects that should be completed this year if possible: 1. Upgrade of Borough Office. 2. Repaving of path between Lomore Circle and Montgomery Avenue. 3. New chairs for the Borough Council Meeting Room. There was some discussion about needing more time to read the report and it was said after reading the report people should let Mr. Zimmerman know of any problems or suggestions for the five year plan.

There was discussion concerning the upgrade of the Borough Office and after some questions were answered Mr. Engelbrecht moved, second by Ms. Hallman to approve the upgrade of the Borough Office. On a roll cal vote all present voted aye.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10PM with a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Morren. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk